

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
USIE-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02
CU-04 AGRE-00 DOTE-00 HEW-04 HUD-01 INT-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 ERDE-00
FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 ERDA-05 COME-00 EB-08 EPA-01
L-03 NSF-01 OES-07 SS-15 /141 W
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7891

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, ECOSOC

SUBJ: 32 UNGA, SECOND COMMITTEE: HABITAT CONSULTATIONS
(AGENDA ITEM 12)

REF: USUN 4632

1. SUMMARY: INFORMAL HABITAT CONSULTATIONS RECONVENED
ON NOVEMBER 23 WITH SOME DELEGATIONS MODIFYING THEIR POSI-
TIONS. THERE IS REASONABLE LIKELIHOOD THERE WILL BE ANOTHER
INFORMAL CONSULTATION DURING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 28-DECEM-
BER 2. CO-SPONSORS OF THE GENEVA COMPROMISE ALREADY HAVE
BROAD SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS CONTINUED NOVEMBER 23 WITH MOST
COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN THE PREVIOUS CONSULTATION RETURNING.
VICE-CHAIRMAN TUKAN SUMMED UP RESOLTS OF THIS SESSION AS FOL-
LOWS: (A) THERE CONTINUES TO APPEAR TO BE A DESIRE BY DELEGA-
TIONS TO REACH A DECISION THIS SESSION; (B) THERE SEEMS TO BE
A PREFERENCE BY DELEGATIONS FOR THE ELEMENTS OF THE GENEVA
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TEXT. WHILE ARGUMENTS WERE MADE FOR OTHER VIEWS, THE GENEVA
COMPROMISE (L.41) VERSION, HAMMERED OUT OVER FOUR-WEEK
PERIOD IN ECOSOC, APPEARS TO CONTAIN THE BASIC ELEMENTS
OF A FINAL DECISION; (C) THERE IS A LIMITED TIMEFRAME FOR
CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER, THUS HE DID NOT SEE THE VALUE
IN THE INFORMAL GROUP MEETING SOON AGAIN UNLESS THERE WERE
REASONS TO ASSUME POSITIONS HAVE CHANGED. RATHER, THE CO-

SPONSORS OF L.41 COULD PROCEED WITH THEIR RESOLUTION IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE FOLLOWING NORMAL PROCEDURES FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. (THERE WERE SUBSEQUENT EFFORTS BY DELEGATIONS TO REQUEST ANOTHER INFORMAL CONSULTATION SOMETIME NEXT WEEK (NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 3) TO WHICH THE VICE-CHAIRMAN AGREED.)

3. POSITIONS WHICH REFLECTED CHANGED FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A) MEXICO - THEY WITHDREW THEIR OFFER TO HOST THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN SETTLEMENT INSTITUTION IN THE SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE AND SUPPORTED L.41 WITH THE HOPE OTHERS WOULD SHOW THE SAME ATTITUDE.

B) GREECE - STATED THAT WHILE THEY CAME TO THE CONSULTATIONS FAVORING THE UNEP SOLUTION, THEY HAD NOW CONCLUDED THAT THE GENEVA COMPROMISE WAS THE MOST SENSIBLE APPROACH. THEY WERE CONVINCED BY THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION ARGUMENTS (SENATOR BENITES, FORMER PRESIDENT OF UNEP/GC III) THAT THE NATURE AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF UNEP WOULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED, THAT THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL COULD NOT MERELY TACKLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ONTO ITS REGULAR SESSION FOR TWO DAYS AND COVER THE SUBJECT MATTER INCLUDING THE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES CONTEMPLATED. DIFFERENT PEOPLE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ATTEND WHEREVER OF WHENEVER THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED THAN THOSE WHO DEALT WITH ENVIRONMENT.

C) FRANCE - THEY CONSIDERED THE ISSUE GOING BEYOND ENVIRONMENT AND, THEREFORE, SHOULD BE UNDER THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENTAL JURISDICTION OF ECOSOC, AND NOT UNEP.

4. POSITIONS WHICH WERE RESTATED:

A) ITALY - THEY WILL CONTINUE TO TABLE THEIR AMENDMENTS INFORMALLY DISTRIBUTED.

B) USSR - WHILE REITERATING THEIR PREFERENCE FOR THE STATUS QUO AND CONCERN FOR PROLIFERATION OF NEW BODIES, SOVIETS OFFERED AN AMENDMENT TO L.41 WHICH WOULD CONSOLIDATE PARAGRAPHS II(2) AND II(3) INTO ONE PARAGRAPH SO THAT THE EXISTING COMMITTEE OF HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING (CHBP) WOULD SIMPLY BE "TRANSFORMED" INTO A COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. (ALL DELEGATIONS AGREED IT WAS THE INTENTION OF THE GENEVA TEXT DRAFTERS TO ABOLISH THE PRESENT INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING.)

C) UK TABLED AN AIDE MEMOIRE (DATAFAXED SCHIFF, IO/DHP) OUTLINING ITS VIEWS ACCEPTING L.41. THEY ARGUED THAT IN THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN ONLY 8 PER CENT OF UNEP PROGRAMS COULD BE CONSIDERED AS RELATED TO HUMAN SETTLEMENT ACTIVITIES. FURTHER, WITH REGARD TO RESTRUCTURING, IT WAS THEIR VIEW THAT ECOSOC SHOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITIES FOR BROAD GAUGED SUBJECTS SUCH AS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, AND THIS WOULD NOT BE THE CASE IF THE UNEP/GOVERNING COUNCIL WERE TO BE DESIGNATED AS

THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY.

D) YUGOSLAVIA AND BELGIUM - PREFER THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY TO BE THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL WHILE RETAINING THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF L.41.

E) JAPAN - NOTED THAT THE PAST APPROACH WAS TO HAVE ECOSOC SERVE AS THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL BODY, AND THIS WAS THE DEVICE USED LAST YEAR TO PASS OVER THE PROBLEM.

5. THE GENERAL ATTITUDE OF PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS IS THAT AFTER TWO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES AND A SPECIAL FOUR-WEEK SESSION OF ECOSOC, GOVERNMENTS MUST FIND A SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. THE KENYANS AND OTHER CO-SPONSORS, SENSING THIS MOOD, HAVE INDICATED THEY INTEND TO BRING THE GENEVA COM-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROMISE A/C.2/32/L.41 TO A VOTE IF NECESSARY. WITH AFRICAN GROUP ENDORSEMENT, WITHDRAWAL OF MEXICAN EFFORTS TO HOST THE INSTITUTION, AND STRONG PHILIPPINE BACKING FOR THE GENEVA COM-PROMISE AS WELL AS BROAD WESTERN GROUP SUPPORT, THEY WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE THE NECESSARY BROAD BASE TO DEFEAT AMENDMENTS AND OBTAIN ITS ADOPTION.
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